

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A porous substrate comprising:
 - a) a plastic body portion having a passageway therethrough;
and
 - b) a crosslinked hydrophilic polymer permanently affixed to a wall of said passageway, said, passageway being permeable to a gas when dry but impermeable to a gas when wet with an aqueous liquid.
2. The substrate of Claim 1 wherein said body portion is of polyolefin, polyester, polystyrene, polyurethane, polyvinylchloride, polyacrylic or mixture or copolymer thereof.
3. The substrate of Claim 1 wherein said crosslinked polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyalkyleneoxide, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylalcohol, polyvinylacetate, polyhydroxyalkylacetate, polystyrene sulfonate and mixtures or copolymers thereof.
4. A porous plug comprising:
 - a) a polyethylene body portion having a passageway therethrough; and
 - b) crosslinked polyvinylpyrrolidone permanently affixed to a wall of said passageway whereby said passageway is permeable to a gas when dry but impermeable to said gas when wet with an aqueous liquid.
5. The plug of Claim 4 wherein said gas is air and said liquid is blood.

6. A medical article comprising the substrate of Claim 1.
7. A syringe comprising:
 - a) a plastic tubular body having open proximal and distal ends;
 - b) a hub affixed to said open proximal end;
 - c) a hypodermic needle affixed to and passing through said hub; and
 - d) a hollow plastic plunger rod having the plug of Claim 4 in a forward end thereof, said rod with plug therein being slidably and sealingly positioned in said tubular body, said tubular body, hub and plug enclosing an interior volume in fluid communication with said needle.